AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Amend paragraph 0046 of the published application as follows:

FIG. 1 is a perspective view, partly in cross section, of a distal end of an endoscopic stapling device or assembly 8 for use in inserting a staple 10 deeply into internal organic tissues of a patient. Staple 10 includes a pair of legs or prongs 10a and 10b each provided with a staple notch, aperture, or recess 13 for enabling a locking of the staple in a closed post-firing configuration. Staple 10 is locked in the closed configuration by a backbone 12 (see FIGS. 2-5) comprising a pair of legs or prongs 12a and 12b projecting parallel to one another from a body portion 12c. Body portion 12c has opposing planar faces 12d and is provided at a rear or proximal end with a cutout or recess 12e serving as a seat or receptacle for the distal end of a push bar or elongate flexible pusher member 22. As discussed below, backbone 12 is disposed back behind the staple 10 until the staple is inserted into the tissues and is ready to be locked.